

The Rising Star



Disney-Bell Post 66 Newsletter

September 1, 2002

A Time to Remember

This month will mark the first anniversary of the devastating attacks that took place on our country. September 11 is a date that will forever be remembered by all Americans. Just as December 7, 1941 and November 22, 1963 are remembered by other generations, so is true of September 11, 2001. If you lived it, you know it. These dates are constant reminders of how fragile our world can be. They are reminders that our freedom is constantly under attack by those who despise democracy and wish to destroy the ideals that make us free. They are symbols of how we must continue to be vigilant and that we never take our freedom for granted.

On the first anniversary of the events that shook our lives, Disney-Bell Post 66 of the American Legion will join with the other service organizations of Bowie and the City of Bowie in a remembrance ceremony to be held at Allen's Pond on Wednesday, September 11, 2002. Ceremonies begin at 7:30 p.m. with our Honor Guard presenting colors as well as the Commanders of all service organizations parading the colors of their respective organizations. Post 66 will also be presenting the City of Bowie a Blue Star organization flag on behalf of all organizations. It is not too early to plan to join with me and the officers of Post 66, as well as our Honor Guard, Unit 66 of the Auxiliary and Squadron 66 of the Sons of the American Legion, to commemorate those who died as a result of the actions on that day. Post 66, along with the DAV, VFW and Marine Corps League, will be distributing 2,000 American flags to those in attendance that evening. If at all



possible, please make a special effort to be with us that night. The normally scheduled Executive Committee meeting has been rescheduled to Thursday, September 12.

The President has proclaimed September 11 as Patriot's Day and the American Legion is leading the way in sponsoring events that all Americans can take part in to demonstrate our resolve. We are asking that all Americans wear red, white and blue that day and that whatever you are doing, stop at noon and recite the Pledge of Allegiance. This small act can go a long way to demonstrate to those that wish us harm that we are united as one country.

There are many other events taking place this month. Please read your entire newsletter so as not to miss out on these events.

J. D. Larson
Commander



Unit 66 Report

When this edition of the newsletter went to press, the Auxiliary had not had their August meeting. This means that the next newsletter should have twice as much good news about the Auxiliary and our activities.

I am very proud to say that we are an award winning unit. We were recognized by the District and the Department for making 4-star in

membership. Our Unit also took third place for National Security at the Department of Maryland Convention in Ocean City. At our District meeting on Sunday, August 18 we were awarded five certificates of merit in the following categories: second place for Community Service, second place for Children and Youth, second place for Veterans Affairs & Rehabilitation (for units with membership of 150 or more), second place for membership (greatest number of new members) and third place for Education. I was delighted to accept these awards for our Unit, but I know that all of the ladies in our Unit are the award winners. I hope this coming year is as rewarding as the last. I know we can all work together and have another winning year.

Mark September 21, 2002 on your calendars. This is the date of the annual Charlotte Hall Veterans Home Summer Carnival. This year the theme of the carnival is a haunted house. It promises to be exciting, scary and fun; not to mention the warm feeling you'll get when you see the veterans enjoying themselves. If you are interested in attending and helping with our booth please contact me at (301) 262-8356 or leave a message at the Post home (301) 464-9814. We will leave the Post at 10:00 a.m. and return at approximately 4:30 p.m. and we dress in costume while we are manning the booth. Last year we took third place for our booth and hopefully this year we will do better. If you have any ideas for the booth or costumes please, call the numbers above and leave a message.

Fall Conference is just around the corner in October. The Conference takes place at the B.W.I. Marriott on October 25, 26 and 27, 2002. There will be presentations by the different committees of the Department, entertainment and meals including a banquet on Saturday night. If you are interested in attending, please be present at our September monthly meeting where we will be selecting our delegation. Hope to see you there.

As I have mentioned before, it would be great if more members could try to attend our meetings. Our next meeting will be on September 18, 2002 at 7:30 p.m.. During our meetings we hear committee

reports, plan holiday parties, decide menus for our Friday night dinners, decide on projects for the coming year that will benefit our veterans and our Legion families and just have a great time. Looking back on the last year you can see we have made winning strides and with your support we can make even bigger steps this year.

Juanita L. Thompson
President

September Friday Night Dinner Menu

September 6	Steak
September 13	TBA
September 20	Tacos
September 27	Spaghetti

All meals are served 6:30 to 8:00 pm
Reservations should be made by calling the Post
no later than the Wednesday before.



Squadron 66 Report

As the incoming Commander I would like to start by saying I hope everybody has had a good summer. As it is starting to wind down of course, you can't tell by the 100-degree weather. I would like to congratulate all of the new officers. I know we are all looking forward to another great year. We are starting off the month of September with our annual Car Show on the September 21 with a rain date of September 28. Stop

by the Post for more details and registration forms. Registration time is 9:00 a.m. to noon. Show time is noon - 3:00 p.m.. Pre-registration cost is only \$10 and must be post marked no later than September 14. Registration fees after the 14th and the day of the show are \$12.

Squadron 66 is also sending our Golf Pro Team to the DAV-sponsored Alan J. Twohig Forget-Me-Not Golf Tournament on September 23.

It's time for Friday Night Dinners again. Along with the Honor Guard, Auxiliary and Post, the SAL will host our first dinner on Friday, September 27. It will be spaghetti, salad, bread and dessert for only \$8.00. Please come and bring your family.

I was reading the SAL National Update Newsletters and it stated that membership is at an all time high of 255,000 members. Maryland was mentioned as one the leaders at 12,900 at 100%. I wish to keep this going and put our Post close to the top. So let's make this year our best membership year ever.

Well I've probably said too much already said too much already. But I would like to see some new faces at our meetings. We could use the input for new projects. As you know, all of the funds we raise go to the veterans, their families and local charitable organizations. I look forward to working with the SAL and the American Legion Family through the year. Thank you.

Joe Clark
Commander

Executive Meeting Changed

Due to the observance of September 11, the regularly scheduled meeting of the Executive Committee has been changed to Thursday, September 12 at 7:30 p.m..

1st Vice Commander Report

The 2003 membership year has taken off with a bang. Thanks to an early mailing to Post 297 members in our area and the diligent efforts of our Adjutant, Jim Pritchett, processing transfers, new applications, renewals and prospective members that National enrolls through the Direct Mail Solicitation program, we are considerably ahead of our position at this point last year.

As of August 16, we have 469 members for 2003 toward our goal of 842, or 55.7%. Last year at this time we had 389 members. Many of you have decided to renew early this year and this is a great help. Because many of you have renewed early, the Department of Maryland does not have to send additional renewal notices and our post is spared sending you reminder letters. Thanks to those who now hold 2003 membership cards, and a request to those who don't, to please make every effort to not delay in renewing. If you haven't been to the Post recently, this is a good opportunity to drop in to renew friendships and pay your 2003 dues at the same time.

As always, we continue to need new members to replace those we unfortunately lose each year. The life of Post 66 depends upon each of us remaining vigilant in looking for prospective members. The best recruiters in the Post are usually repeaters year after year. If these dedicated members can find a source of new members year after year, certainly you can find a new member, too. It really can be a good feeling to bring someone new aboard.

Clif Morvant
First Vice Commander

Adjutant's Call

Every member of Disney-Bell Post 66, who is an annual dues payer, should have received the first dues notice mailed by the American Legion National Headquarters. If you did not receive one, please contact me or mail your \$20

annual dues to the Post, Attn: Adjutant, and I will do the rest.

Response to the first notice has been great and we are currently at 55.7% of goal and well above last year at this time. However (don't you just love it when a sentence starts with "however"?), we need to continue this pace. Those of you who are "hanging fire" on your renewal, need to mail that renewal in as soon as possible. Another renewal notice will be mailed to all Legionnaires whose renewals have not been processed at National by the first week of August. A few members who have already paid their dues will receive this notice. For those who have not yet renewed, this is your second "wake up" call. This is the time to renew before the holiday spending uses up that \$20.

Again, if you have any questions on your membership, do not hesitate to contact me either at the Post (301-464-9814) or my residence (301-390-6436). The Post e-mail address is alpost66@bellatlantic.net or mine is jimabniam@aol.com.

James L. Pritchett, Jr.
Adjutant

Chaplain's Corner

As we begin another administrative year, let us remember our fellow veterans in the VA hospitals and nursing homes. If you know of any veteran or their family who needs our help, please leave a message for me at our Post Home, or call me at 301-262-0257, or send an e-mail message to rweik53164@aol.com.

Toni King
Chaplain

County Bull Roast

The Prince George's County Council is sponsoring a Super Bull Roast on Saturday, September 7, 2002 being held at the Beltway Post 172 at 7105 Cipriano Road in Lanham. This is one of the events planned throughout the year to raise funds in support of the Legion's county programs. Tickets are on sale at the Post for \$20



(\$25 at the door). The menu consists of barbeque pit beef, Italian and German sausages, hot dogs, hamburgers, barbeque chicken, fresh corn-on-the-cob, cold salads, deviled eggs and much more. Draft beer is included in the price. Feeding

begins at 4:00 pm, continues through 7:00 pm with music and games to follow. A 50/50 county wide raffle (tickets also on sale at the Post), will be conducted as well as the world famous quarter wheel. Also, several local merchants have donated prizes and/or services which will be given away as door prizes (you must have a ticket to win). Many members from Post 66 are assisting in this event and hopefully we can show support for this effort. Mark your calendar now and plan to join us at the Super Bull Roast.

Party Planned

We are bringing back the great Oktoberfest of old with a special party on Saturday, October 19 from 7:00 - 11:00 p.m.. We have hired a great band, the Joe and Marcia Illig Band (members of Post 66) who play not only polkas, but a great variety of other music as well. In their own words, they play a "variety of music at a listenable volume".

We will be serving some traditional German food (wurst and stuff), cold beer, pretzels and just have a good old fashion party. Tickets will go on sale in October, reasonably priced, of course. Put that calendar insert on your refrigerator and make sure you are at the Post on October 19.